Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application: :

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the fingering information is comprised of which finger is placed where on the at least one musical a selected instrument.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the fingering information is comprised of tablature information.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the fingering information is optimum fingering is-fingering such that hand movement is minimized on the instrument for performing the given-digital musical composition.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the fingering information is alternate fingering is-fingering such that it the musical composition is easier to perform on the instrument for the skill level of a given performer.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the fingering information is alternate fingering is-fingering such that it provides for a preferred tonal stylization for a given performer or composer.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input musical data composition is comprised of a musical score or tablature information.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input means is a data storage device containing digital musical data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the input means is a computer network from which digital musical data is obtained ~~from~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input means is a computer program where digital musical data is entered by a mouse, keyboard, or tablet.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input means is a MIDI device providing digital musical data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input means is a digitizing scanner that scans paper containing musical data, and a means of converting the scanner's digitized image into digital musical data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 21 wherein the input means is a microphone that captures musical sounds, an analog-to-digital converter that converts the sounds into digital information, and a means of converting the digital information into digital musical data.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the output means is a data storage device.

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16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the output means is a computer network.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the output means is a printer.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the output means is a computer monitor.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 21 wherein the output means is a device that uses the fingering information for a musical performance.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (New) A method for determining complete performance-ready fingering information for performing a musical composition on at least one musical instrument comprising:

    a.   providing a computing system comprising a memory able to store digital musical data, a means of inputting and digitizing a musical composition into digital musical data, a processor for identifying all strokes and stroke groups in the digital musical data and calculating fingering information for performing the musical composition, and a means of outputting the complete performance-ready fingering information,

    b.   inputting the musical composition into the computing system,

    c.   digitizing the musical composition into digital musical data if the musical composition was input in a non-digital form,

    d.   storing the digital musical data in the memory,

    e.   identifying all strokes and stroke groups in the digital musical data and calculating the complete performance-ready fingering information there from, and

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      f.   outputting the complete performance-ready fingering information for performing the musical composition on the at least one musical instrument,

wherein said fingering information can be published, stored or used to perform the musical piece on at least one musical instrument.

    22.   (new) A machine for determining complete performance-ready fingering information for performing a musical composition on at least one musical instrument comprising a computing system that comprises:

      a.   a memory able to store digital musical data,

      b.   a means of inputting and digitizing a musical composition into digital musical data if the musical composition was input in a non-digital form,

      c.   a processor for identifying all strokes and stroke groups in the digital musical data and calculating the complete performance-ready fingering information there from, and

      d.   a means of outputting complete performance-ready fingering information for performing the musical composition on the at least one musical instrument,

wherein said fingering information can be published, stored or used to perform the musical piece on at least one musical instrument.

23.   The method of claim 21, wherein in step (e) the processor (i) identifies strokes and stroke groups within the digital musical data stored in the memory, (ii) selects stroke groups to be used for determining the fingering, and (iii) determines performance-ready fingering information from the selected stroke groups,

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